India

FOR THE

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

In future "India" will be forwarded only to persons in respect of whom subscriptions have been actually received at the London Office. To this rule there will be no exception.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The fifteenth Parliament of the present reign assembled on Monday last. The election of Speaker was the only business on that day, and it is scarcely necessary to say that Mr. W. C. Gully, the Speaker in the late Parliament, was re-elected to the position of First Commoner. The process of swearing-in of members has up till now been the only business which has occupied the attention of Parliament. The Queen's Speech is being read as we are going to press, and the debate upon it will, in all probability, be seriously entered upon to-day (Friday). So far as can be seen, the whole business of the Session will be confined to the discussion of the estimates for additional supplies for South Africa and China. It is extremely unlikely that an amendment upon an Indian question will be moved to the Address from the Throne. The intention appears to be that the present sittings of Parliament shall constitute a distinct Session, and that a new Session will be opened in February with another "Queen's Speech." Then it is more than likely that important debates will bring the attention of the country to the importance of the problems of Indian government.

The weekly Viceregal telegram announces that the numbers in receipt of famine relief have again gone down —from 420,000 to 340,000. The most of the sufferers are still in the Bombay Presidency—239,000. We are glad to note that the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces are reported clear. The grip of famine, however, is evidently reluctant to relax, and all the indications go to show that the people are still in very serious straits. Unhappily, there is a plentiful lack of detailed information as to the condition of the population in the districts that have been overrun by the calamity. It will be observed that the Viceroy's telegram makes no mention of rain, though for several previous weeks the rainfall had been reported as but very meagre. The inference can hardly be cheering. We trust that some adequate information of the real state of affairs may be vouchsafed by, or else drawn from, the Secretary of State in Parliament.

So long ago as June 15 we intimated (India, Vol. XIII, p. 288) that Dr. Sarat Mullick, with influential co-operation, was organising an Indian theatrical entertainment in aid of the funds for famine relief. Mr. Beerbohm Tree, of Her Majesty's Theatre, who has taken a deep interest in the movement, and is cordially supported by a like feeling on the part of the staff of his house, was yet driven to the conclusion that the proposed matinée must be at any rate postponed. "He does not withdraw his promise to give this matinée; he will suspend it until such time as the Government have made a further move." For "he cannot shut his eyes to the fact that what in the opinion of the mass of the public would be the best and the most [illegible] authority on the matter is distinctly opposed to the *necessity* of any further help coming from private channels." It would appear, then, that the blighting shadow of the India Office has fallen upon the generous intentions of the promoters. None the less do these gentlemen deserve the highest credit for their sympathetic intentions, but the thwarting cause is melancholy to contemplate.

Lord Curzon has from time to time reflected on the small contributions made by wealthy Indians to the Famine Fund. A correspondent in the *Times of India* puts a different face on the matter. The Viceroy seems to have assumed that the subscription to the fund represented the only, or at least the chief, expenditure of the subscribers in relief of famine, but the correspondent cites the case of a rich Mahometan of Bombay, whose name appears as giving only Rs.1,000, while in reality this was only a very small part of what he expended. Early in the famine he was moved by hearing of the numbers of women in Kathiawar abandoned under the stress of hunger and physical disability by their natural protectors. He accordingly went to Kathiawar, and having made arrangements for receiving the women, he sent out into the jungles to find them. Nor did he fail to supply all needful aid to those women who, though abandoned, had been left in their homes. The days of chivalry are by no means past.

But this was only the beginning of his charities. At Dhoraji he opened a famine camp in August and a poorhouse in September. By the month of May there were in the camp 574,000 persons, and in the poorhouse over 27,000 men, 30,000 women, and 43,000 children. How absurd, then, to measure the generosity of such a man by his subscription to the Famine Fund! Another point in relation to this great philanthropist's work deserves especial mention: it was entirely free from the taint of religious exclusiveness. Ninety per cent. of the women whom he succoured were Hindus, and on the relief works the Hindus predominated to the extent of 65 per cent. So far, indeed, did this Mahometan carry his care for the religious scruples of others that he employed a dozen Brahmin cooks to prepare the food for the Hindus of high caste. Such an act as this must tend to solder the sympathies of the two religious communities.

Under the heading "India's Tribute to a Great Figure," the *Morning Leader* (November 26) published the following telegraphic message from its "own correspondent" at Bombay on the unveiling of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's portrait at the Framji Cowasji Institute:—

Bombay, Sunday, November 25.

A portrait of Mr. Naoroji was unveiled here yesterday in the presence of a mass meeting which was of a most representative kind and included the leading Mahometans.

Mr. Justice Ranade presided and eulogised Mr. Naoroji's life, which he said had been devoted to the promotion of India's welfare. He had read every word uttered at Mr. Naoroji's public meetings, and declared that he gave the lie to the calumnies of interested political opponents.

Mr. Naoroji was the best product of British education, and Englishmen should feel proud of him as a unique figure in Indian history.

Mr. Naoroji had educated the English people on the subject of India's poverty, and in relation to India and Great Britain he stood alone in his eminence.

At a meeting of the London Indian Society (December 1) the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Edward Dalgado of the Bombay Bar and seconded by Mr. J. M. Parikh of the London Bar, and carried unanimously:—

That the London Indian Society notes with the greatest pleasure the honour done in a partial manner to their worthy and respected Chairman in his lifetime by the citizens of Bombay by unveiling his portrait, thereby expressing the universal esteem and gratitude which are cherished by the whole nation for his distinguished services and self-sacrifice in the interests of the country.

It was further resolved "that a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Mr. Justice Ranade." The

resolution carefully says "the honour done in a partial manner." The closer view of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's "distinguished services and self-sacrifice in the interests of the country" not unnaturally seems to have suggested that, marked as the present honour is, it yet leaves the opportunity for some larger token of appreciation. That, we have no doubt, will not be wanting.

The moral that the *Pioneer* would like to enforce from Mr. Bright's report on the plague in Calcutta is that that city escaped a terrible epidemic more by good luck than by good management. It is, indeed, true that of the accepted Anglo-Indian plague measures, one only was adopted. It was found impossible to persist in compulsory removal and segregation, or even house to house visitation. The penalties for failing to give information of cases were rarely enforced, and, as a matter of fact, the presence of plague was seldom notified, except when a death took place. Disinfection alone was persistently practised. Yet the plague, which so raged elsewhere, made but a slight attack on Calcutta. Thus the people of that city escaped the pestilence and also the measures of protection which were felt in other places as no less grievous; and it does not seem likely that much would have been done in the way of the prevention of plague, even if these measures had been enforced. Yet some Anglo-Indians seem disappointed that their predictions have not been verified and a vast amount of unnecessary suffering caused. Perhaps a more generous statement of the sanitary measures adopted by the Corporation, as distinct from the special Anglo-Indian plague measures, would throw further light on the comparative immunity of Calcutta.

A retired police officer writes to the *Madras Mail* giving his views on the best way of preventing the torture of prisoners by the police. It is evident he agrees with the universal opinion that such torture is sometimes inflicted either to extort blackmail or to extort confessions. He suggests that it should be imperative that all wounds or scars should be recorded in the report of arrest, with the statement of the accused as to how they were caused. The wounds should in any doubtful case be medically examined, and the statement of the accused witnessed by one of his relatives or by the village patel. Any other wounds found on the prisoner afterwards should be considered as inflicted by the police unless they could prove the contrary. It is true that a prisoner may sometimes inflict wounds on himself to give colour to a charge against the police; but "as they search the prisoner before he is locked up, and guard him, the *onus probandi* lies on the police concerned." Unfortunately there are some forms of torture which leave no marks.

In the resolution on the Police Report of the North-West Provinces it is announced that the Government of India have expressed their willingness to increase the European staff. But the resolution of the local government adds:—

> His Honour trusts that the proposals he is about to submit to the Governor-General in Council for a corresponding increase in the Native staff will meet with approval. The Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the whole scheme will be so adjusted as to provide an opening for approved Native ability and zeal in the controlling staff of the police force.

Indeed, Sir Antony MacDonnell sees—and so important an Anglo-Indian newspaper as the *Friend of India* applauds him for recognising the fact—that a better class of men are needed for the rank and file of the police, and that this better class can only be obtained by offering better pay and better prospects. He goes to the root of the matter when he points out that a sub-inspector of police earning from thirty to seventy rupees a month can scarcely be expected to refrain from using the many opportunities which he has of making money improperly.

But in the opinion of Sir Antony MacDonnell it is impossible to pay investigating police officers enough to place them entirely beyond the reach of temptation. Here, as always in India, the financial difficulty bars the way of reform. Sir Antony suggests that the only guarantee, until there is a great improvement in morality as a result of education, lies in "close and constant supervision." He proposes, therefore, to increase the supervising staff, both Native and European. But here again the financial difficulty crops up, though hardly in so serious a form. It is to be feared that there has been a tendency in some quarters to starve the police in order to avoid reductions of expenditure in other directions.

The *Hindu* considers that there are two facts of State policy in India which have an important bearing on what it justly calls the Indian economic revolution. These facts are—(1) that Free Trade has been forced on India, and (2) that enhancements of land revenue are constantly taking place. With regard to the first, though the destruction of Indian industries is no doubt one of the great facts of the situation, some difference of opinion may arise as to whether it was possible to prevent it by any fiscal measures which, given the relations existing between England and India, had the least chance of being accepted by the predominant partner. The second is less open to dispute. The land revenue is constantly being enhanced, and even in some of the most fertile tracts land is being offered for sale because the revenue is in arrear, and finds no purchasers. And to this must be added the impoverishment caused by the drain of wealth to England. The *Hindu* is far from denying the advantages of British rule, such as the *Pax Britannica* and the opportunities for emigration, but it maintains that these are overbalanced by the economic disadvantages.

In a very outspoken article the *Tribune* discusses the proper up-bringing of an Indian Prince. The occasion is afforded by the recent death of the Mahárájá of Patiala, whose reign, in spite of his many excellent and loveable qualities and the great hopes they had aroused, is generally admitted to have been an economic and administrative failure. His successor is still very young, and the question naturally arises how he can be best prepared for the high position that awaits him, and how he can be saved from the failures that are unfortunately associated with his father's name. And this particular enquiry naturally leads to the more general one: how an Indian Prince should be trained and what should be done with the treasure accumulated during his minority. In the case of Patiala, Sir Dewa Singh, the President of the Council of Regency, proposed that the accumulations which had accrued during the late Mahárájá's minority should be spent on public works. But he was overruled, and they were handed over to the young Prince, just emerged from the control of his guardian. As the *Tribune* says, this is a most inopportune moment for a young man to have the spending of large sums of money.

But the still more important question remains: Should not an Indian Prince be brought up as an Indian, not as a European, Prince? Here is a good opportunity for Lord Curzon to put into practice the recommendations he has so freely offered to the Indian Princes. And this will be all the easier if, as the *Tribune* asserts, the other Phulkian chiefs have a treaty right to make arrangements for the minority of one of their number, under supervision of the Indian Government. The eldest and most respected member of the Phulkian House is the saintly ruler of Nabha, "a model Hindu-Sikh chief of the old school;" and our contemporary thinks that he would be the natural and the best guardian of the young Mahárájá of Patiala.

As to the general advantages of Indian guardianship, they are very clearly put by the *Tribune*. First, the Indian will be the more efficient guardian, because he will know better the dangers to which a young ruler in India is exposed, and will be able more easily to discern those who are likely to have a bad influence over him. Second, Indian guardianship will render him fitter for one of the chief functions of a Native ruler, the upholding of the best Native customs and the establishment of a centre of stability and moral order in the midst of the revolution due to the introduction of Western ideas. The true evolution of India does not consist in the exchange of Indian for European institutions, but in the assimilation by India of that which is really life-giving in European civilisation. Third, and more important than all, if the Prince is to be a good ruler he should remain in touch with his people, subjected to the public opinion of those whom he rules by the strong ties inherent in Indian society and with an instinctive sympathy for their feelings and their wants.

As might have been anticipated, the late Professor Max Müller's colleagues at Oxford have appealed to the public to assist them in raising some permanent memorial of that

great scholar—"one of the most distinguished scholars of the nineteenth century"—who "spent half a century in the service of the University of Oxford." In their appeal, which we publish in another column, they set out concisely the main points of the various large grounds on which Professor Max Müller deserves peculiarly to be remembered, especially in the home of learning and research which he adorned. In the forefront is naturally placed the "far-reaching influence on Oriental study" which he exercised during the last fifty years, and conspicuous mention is made of his devotion of "the chief efforts of his life to the advancement of our knowledge of ancient India." The modes of commemoration suggested are mainly, and wisely, calculated to further the great purposes of Max Müller's career: a commemorative bust or portrait to be placed in the Bodleian Library, and the promotion of the studies to which his life was devoted. We trust that the appeal will meet a wide and liberal response. Professor Max Müller's Indian admirers have already shown the way

Sir Alfred Lyall delivered the first of two lectures on "Indian Politics and Administration" at the School of Economics and Political Science on November 30. He described the rise and growth of the British power in India, and dealt with the external relations of the Indian Government with the Native States "in subordinate union" and with other Asiatic Powers. The main interest of the lecture lay in his expression of opinion as to the relations of Britain and Russia in the north-west. His conclusion was that the only solution lies in a friendly understanding with Russia. "A quarrel between the two Great Powers would throw all Asia into confusion, and the aim of statesmanship should be to arrive at a mutual agreement and joint action for the solution of the many grave problems lying in front of both Britain and Russia in Asia." No doubt; yet such an aim of statesmanship does not seem to have had much practical effect in the past few decades. Let us have a good understanding by all means; only let us look beyond that, leaving the frontier tribesmen in peace, and promoting to the utmost the internal prosperity of the country and the contentment of the Indian population.

An Anglo-Indian correspondent, fresh from Sir Alfred's lecture, writes:—"It is vain for anyone at this time of day to try to insinuate an excuse for our trans-frontier aggression since 1876 by referring to the muddling ignorance and intrigue which resulted in the disastrous invasion of Afghanistan in 1838. Even to describe that awful muddle or crime as if it afforded any rational explanation of that policy is unworthy of a historian. That was indeed the first step in a dismal sequence, interrupted for twenty years or more by the sagacity and firmness of Anglo-Indian statesmen, of whom John Lawrence was chief, and resumed in 1876 by the Disraeli-Salisbury conspiracy, of which the gay Lord Lytton was made the instrument. Thereout arose the modern 'Forward Party,' whose natural history H. H. Abdul Rahman has vivisected. Of that party Sir Alfred Lyall was an accessory, and this fact should be borne in mind by those who peruse a report of the lecture by that cultured historian."

The *Economist* (December 1) deals firmly enough with the "very lugubrious lucubrations as to the gravely injurious effect which the terms of the purchase by the Indian Government of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway must have upon the prices of all Indian railways" which Lord Monkswell has recently been addressing to the *Times*. "Lord Monkswell," says our contemporary, "seems to entertain an idea that, instead of an annuity terminable in fifty years, the stockholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ought to have received a perpetual annuity of the same amount." It then goes on to remark:—

His language on this point is obscure, but that is what we take it to mean. He writes: "In the case of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway the price given was an annuity which, if perpetual, would have been the equivalent of such average value of the stock [that is, the average market price for the three years previous to the purchase, which works out at about 175], taking as the basis of the calculation the average value of Indian annuities during the two years previous to the purchase." Now, the annuity which the Indian Government, under the arrangement with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, have to pay is one for forty-nine years, at the rate of about £6 14s. per cent. per annum. And if Lord Monkswell will tell us where a person can buy for £175 a perpetual annuity of £6 14s., with security equal to that of the Indian Government, we can guarantee a flood of applicants. If we assume that the Indian Government can borrow at 3 per cent., the yield of an investment of £175 in its securities would amount to £5 5s. per cent., and yet, according to Lord Monkswell, the shareholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ought to be paid interest in perpetuity on the £175, which is accepted as truly representing the average value of their stock, at the rate of £6 14s. per cent.

The *Economist* is not surprised that Lord Monkswell wanders into risky ways when he starts on such lines.

Thus, when he contends that other railways must fare still worse than the G.I.P., for the "extraordinary reason" that "there has of late been a fall of Indian credit," the *Economist* cannot understand "by what perverted method of ratiocination he has arrived at that conclusion." "For it is the very opposite of the truth." The writer argues:—

What is the complaint of the shareholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway? Is it not that the interest on which their annuity has been calculated has been worked out on too low a basis? Instead of having the annuity calculated at £2 17s. per cent., they would have liked it to be calculated at 3 per cent., because the higher the rate of interest assumed the larger will be the annuity. Now the rate of £2 17s. per cent., upon which the annuity of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has been based, is that which is calculated by the Governor of the Bank of England to represent the average yield obtained by investors in Indian Government securities in the two years 1898-9. And it is the yield upon its securities that is the measure of the credit of the Indian Government. When, therefore, Lord Monkswell speaks of a fall in the credit of the Indian Government he implies that the yield obtainable upon an investment in its securities has increased. If, then, that fall continues, as he evidently thinks it will, then the annuity payable to the shareholders of the Bombay and Baroda Railway will, when in 1905 their property becomes purchasable by the Government, be calculated on the basis of a higher rate of interest than that of the Great Indian Peninsula has been. For the shareholders of that company, therefore, the fall in the credit of the Indian Government, of which Lord Monkswell speaks, constitutes *pro tanto* a prospective advantage; and yet he pictures it as a coming evil of so alarming a character as to knock the bottom out of the value of the shares altogether, and leave them with only the dividend to be earned during the next five years. That is nonsense, and mischievous nonsense, because if it had any effect in lowering the market value of the shares it would, of course, diminish the purchase price to be paid by the Government when it takes over the undertaking.

There cannot be, as the *Economist* justly goes on to remark, the slightest doubt of Lord Monkswell's sincerity in dealing with this matter. Yet the incident affords one more illustration of the great difficulty of seeing straight where India's interests happen to conflict with those of British capitalists or classes. For, be it noted, the Indian Government—that is, the India Office—is, in this instance, only faithfully discharging its trust on behalf of the Indian taxpayer. And it must be remembered that, apart from the direct arithmetical issues with which the *Economist* deals in this closing phase of these huge transactions, these contracts have been, from beginning to end, grievously adverse to the financial interests of India and its toiling starving millions. Reference to the current Indian Railway Administration Report shows that, to make up the British investors' guarantee, nearly sixty millions sterling has had to be drawn from the general revenues of India.

While the investigations of Sir Norman Lockyer, to which we referred last week, must still be regarded as inconclusive, Mr. W. L. Dallas, the Government meteorological reporter at Simla, remarks in the *Times* (November 29) on the influence of the exceptional rainfall of the African winter of 1899. Mr. Hutchins, of Cape Colony, attributes this rainfall to eastward moving cyclones travelling along a path more northward than usual. Mr. Dallas admits that this is possible, but thinks it also possible "that the south-east trades were deflected towards and drawn into these storms, and that the exceptional supplies of moisture were derived from this source." He sets out the deflection of the trades for each month of the different monsoon seasons from 1893 to 1899, from which it is seen "that any increased easterly deflection shown in 1899 has frequently been equalled or exceeded in previous years when the monsoon rainfall over India was normal or in excess." He adds:—

This does not show that there was no excessive determination of the south-east trades to Africa to that of the region under discussion, but it shows that the deflection of the trades is still open to question, and with it the connexion between the abundant rainfall of Africa and the scanty rainfall of India.

"Unfortunately," says Mr. Dallas, "in India there is no meteorological information for the regions to the south of latitude 12° S"—which accounts for the limits of his discussion of the subject in the *Times* of October 6.

PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE: VICEROY'S WORDS AND GOVERNMENT'S ACTS.

THERE have been few Viceroys of recent years who have enjoyed the popularity of Lord Curzon, for he is believed by the Indians to be a Viceroy in whom they can put their trust—a strong man, with open heart and mind, and both the will and power to curb the oppressors of the people; no mere tool and servant of the official class, but one who will live in history among the famous rulers of British India; and short as has been the time since he ascended the vice-regal throne there has been much to countenance this belief. Very early in his Indian career he showed the openness of his mind and his readiness to sacrifice his most cherished opinions to the teaching of experience by abandoning the forward policy on the North-West frontier, and the strong position he took up concerning outrages by Europeans on Indians put new courage into the hearts of the oppressed. And naturally this good opinion has been still further strengthened by the speeches he has made in the course of his present tour, especially by that which he made in answer to the address of the Bombay Corporation, for therein he used memorable words such as have of late seldom fallen from the lips of a British ruler of India. On that occasion he spoke as follows:—

> I can see no reason why in India, as elsewhere, the official hierarchy should not benefit by public opinion. Official wisdom is not so transcendent as to be superior to this form of stimulus and guidance. Indeed, my inclination, whenever the Government is attacked, is not to assume that the critic must inevitably be wrong, but that it is quite conceivable that he may be right. In any case I enquire . . . . The opinion of the educated classes is one that it is not statemanship to ignore or to despise.

So spoke Lord Curzon, thus definitely ranging himself with those who claimed a hearing for educated India, and flouting the views so long and firmly held by the official Anglo-Indian world.

It was, indeed, a speech that might well have shaken that world with consternation. It may be imagined that to many a worthy official who considered it a necessary part of his duty to despise the subject race it must have seemed perilously near sedition. He must have felt as the priests of a temple would do if they saw the god descending to desecrate his own shrine. For has it not been an article of faith that the so-called educated class in India was only a sham with a thin veneer of Western civilisation, so infinitesimal in numbers, so foolish in opinions, so malignant in intention, and so cut off from all sympathy with the mass of their own countrymen that the only wise course was never to hearken to them? And now the Viceroy himself comes forward as their defender, and while admitting that they are an infinitesimal minority, nevertheless insists that they may give stimulus and guidance to the official hierarchy of British India. Nay, his lordship even seems anxious to make the opponents of the National Congress and the National Press ridiculous by his sly reference to those who think that the critics of the Government must inevitably be in the wrong. It is to be feared that the denouncers of the Congress will be put to the trouble of finding new forms of words in which to clothe their denunciations.

Nor will it assuage the pain which this new departure must have caused to many Anglo-Indian stalwarts to find the words of the Viceroy echoed and approved by the *Englishman*, one of the chief Anglo-Indian organs of Calcutta. It says:—

> But in India it has too long been the custom to ignore public opinion, or rather to proceed on the understanding that it does not exist.

Especially in the Executive Councils of Government have former Viceroys "been accustomed to depend more on official wisdom than on commercial common sense." And if these are the views of the *Englishman* it is natural that Lord Curzon's speeches should have been received with enthusiasm by the Indian public and the Indian Press. Yet it is satisfactory to notice that in the midst of this enthusiasm there is no loss of mental balance or sense of proportion, no inclination, at all events among the most representative journals, to accept honied words as equivalent to righteous actions. In fact it is recognised that, while promise is good, promise must be succeeded by performance. This is the keynote of the remarks of the *Bengalee* and the *Hindu*, which, yielding to none in the affection with which Lord Curzon inspires them, and joining heartily in the enthusiasm which his recent speeches have evoked, nevertheless ask in no spirit of impatience, but rather in one of loyal determination, that the Viceroy's words shall be translated into practice, and that henceforward the public opinion of educated India shall be taken into account by the rulers of the land. Those who think there is an inclination to blame Lord Curzon for mistakes that are not of his doing, to minimise the difficulties of his position, to overlook his isolation, or to forget that he must in general work through his subordinates, misunderstand the warm feelings that he has awakened throughout India. He has gained the reputation of being not only a sympathetic but a strong ruler; and it is the cry of all that is best among the Indians that he should prove himself worthy of his reputation, and make the wise and courageous words he has lately uttered the chart to guide him to wise and courageous action.

There are not wanting, unfortunately, even in his short reign, instances in which Indian opinion has been disregarded, or even refused a hearing. It is in the memory of all that the Calcutta Municipal Bill was opposed by the whole educated opinion of India, and was passed with scarcely an effort to meet the arguments of its opponents by the mere exercise of the power of the Government. The Punjab Land Alienation Bill is another case in point—in some ways a stronger case; for though it did not excite so great an interest throughout the country, and though public opinion may not have been so completely unanimous against it, yet here the views of the educated public had much less opportunity of expression. Of the non-official members of the Viceroy's Council, we believe that one, and one only, was summoned. Sir Harnam Singh, indeed, represents the Province immediately affected by the Act, but so new a departure in Indian legislation, and one supported on many grounds of general application, is surely a matter of interest to the whole of India. The Council at which the Bill was passed was held at Simla, where Anglo-Indian opinion is strong and Indian opinion is weak. Is this the way to show deference to the public opinion of India, or is it not rather a travesty or a contradiction of the Viceroy's noble speech? Is it not time that it should become a settled principle of Indian polity that contentious measures should never be discussed and passed into law at Simla?

There is another point to which both the *Bengalee* and the *Hindu* call attention, and that is one which has arisen from another of Lord Curzon's recent speeches. All India agrees with what he lately said of the duties of an Indian Prince; all India applauded his declaration that the education of Indian Princes should not be such as to make them lose their nationality. But is it fair thus strictly to lay down the right course for the Prince, while leaving the British Resident unfettered and unchecked? There have been only too many instances of the ill-considered interference of the Resident; and there is a strong suspicion in India that more than one Prince has in the past gained a reputation for misgovernment simply because he would not bend to the Resident's imperious will. While Lord Curzon is preaching on the duties of Princes, should he not remember that there is in every Native State a power in reality more absolute and formidable than that of the Prince—a power, therefore, the actions of which are no less in need of the most careful scrutiny and control? Nor should it be forgotten that though injustice is vile everywhere, it never appears with a more hideous mien than when it shows itself in a special and reserved jurisdiction, professedly superior to the Courts of the country. The *Times of India*, Anglo-Indian paper as it is, has yet been forced to raised its protest against what it considers the grossly unfair treatment of a prisoner by the Residency Court of Indore. With what face can the administration of justice in Native States be ever called in question if such proceedings are allowed in British Courts set up in their

midst? Before we take the mote out of the Indian eye, let us take care that we have removed the beam from our own eye. Let Lord Curzon look to the Resident and the Residency, and he will be the better qualified to direct and reprove the erring Prince.

And there is still another point in which promise lags behind performance. Lord Curzon speaks of the need which officials have of the stimulus and guidance of public opinion—especially educated public opinion. This can be obtained, if sought, from a free Press, or even from independent and outspoken persons in private positions—can be obtained, *if sought;* but Lord Curzon must know enough of Anglo-Indian officials to recognise that it will not always be sought. Is it not desirable, then, that some representatives of the public opinion of India should be in a position to force the official world, not to do their will, but to hear their reasons? This is formally admitted for legislation; Indians are already found in the Viceroy's Legislative Council. Is the knowledge of Indian feeling not equally necessary for administration, and does it not, therefore, follow that there should be at least one Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council? Is not the admission of an Indian to that body a necessary corollary of the Viceroy's thesis? And is it not time to equalize the powers of the Native members of the Legislative Councils?

BRITISH INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE splendid behaviour of the British Indian stretcher-bearers in the South African campaign was handsomely recognised even in Natal, and we were encouraged to entertain sanguine hopes that a permanent change had at length come over the spirit in which the British in South Africa had unfortunately regarded their dusky fellow-subjects. Such hopes, however, were chastened by occasional glimpses of the proceedings of public bodies in Natal. It was quite apparent that there still existed an undercurrent of political and social ostracism, based on racial antagonism, and notably manifested in the treatment of schools for the education of Indian children. In papers that have recently come to hand there is strange evidence of the favourable and adverse currents of opinion. But it seems very plain that the adverse influences will easily assert their superiority unless the restraining hand of the Home Government make itself peremptorily felt in the future settlement of South Africa.

On the one hand, for example, we read of an enthusiastic meeting in the Council Chamber at Durban on October 3 to celebrate the conspicuous bravery of Parbhu Sing at the siege of Ladysmith. When the Boers invaded Natal Parbhu was working as an indentured Indian in one of the coal mines in the neighbourhood of Dundee. He was captured by the Boers, but resisted pressure to work for them, and was sent through the lines into Ladysmith. At first he volunteered to go out to the surrounding country and cut grass for the horses in Ladysmith, a dangerous business in which many of his companions were shot down. He served as chowkidar with the 7th Brigade all through the siege, and, as Colonel Morris, the Commandant of Durban, said, "proved himself an enthusiast in his profession." His most notable service was in keeping watch upon the firing of Long Tom on Bulwana mountain. The flash of the gun could not be seen from the town, and Sir George White was at his wit's ends to find some means of warning the townspeople. It was Parbhu Sing who solved the difficulty. He volunteered to go out from Ladysmith to a position where he could see the flash. Taking up his quarters in a tree, he connected it with the town by means of a wire with a bell at the end of it, and, whenever Long Tom fired, he rang his bell and warned the garrison to take shelter. He also waved a flag to warn those who might not hear the bell. Never once, it is said, did Parbhu omit to signal, so attentive and observant was he in his duty. Sir George White, on his return to England, made honourable mention of his important services; and Lady Curzon, having "read with great interest the accounts of his bravery," sent him a *choga* (coat) "as a mark of appreciation of his conduct." It was for the ceremonial presentation of this coat that the Durban meeting in question was held. Colonel Morris, who presided, said:—

Parbhu Sing no doubt saved many lives . . . . Capt. Walton, 7th Brigade A.S.C., and Capt. Austin also, gave written testimonials to Parbhu Sing commending him for his good services. There had been many occasions in which Indians under the Imperial banner had done excellent work in all quarters of their colonies and independencies. They knew of numerous instances during the Indian Mutiny in which faithful servants saved their masters and families from being massacred. He thought, however, that this present instance was as good as any previously recorded. Here was a man away from his own country in the north of India, who left his family and came here to work as an indentured Indian. He happened to be locked up during the siege of Ladysmith, and of his own free will and pluck volunteered to put himself in a position of danger, so as to save the white men as much as he possibly could. (Applause.) He did not think there could be a braver act for a man to do than this man did. He (Colonel Morris) was glad, and felt highly honoured, that he should have been asked to present a token of Her Excellency's pleasure to Parbhu Sing, which was likewise a token of the pleasure of Her Majesty, the Empress of India, towards this subject of her Indian dominions.

The letter of the Secretary to the Government of India announcing Lady Curzon's gift, is dated April 24. The delay in presentation is explained by the modesty of Parbhu Sing, who simply thought that "what he had done was nothing more than his duty." After the siege he had failed to find work at his coal mine, and was eventually discovered in an Indian bakery at Modder Spruit Further, a subscription list was opened to raise about £100 to enable Parbhu to go home to India with something in his pocket. The chairman of the Dundee Coal Company stated that he "had been an excellent servant," and on behalf of his directors said "they would forgo any claim they had upon further service from this brave man." All of which is most creditable.

Unhappily, however, there are startling contrasts to such manly appreciation of British Indian services and claims. Only two days later (October 5) we read of the trial of one Schiffer, an overseer on the Umzinto Sugar Estate, for the culpable homicide, or assault, of two indentured Indians, Ramasamy and Papu. Candem, an indentured Indian, deposed:—

The Indians did their best, but the weather prevented them from doing their work to the best advantage. Accused became annoyed, and went up to Ramasamy with a bundle of sugar canes, and struck him with them, felling him to the ground. Whilst the deceased lay on the ground witness saw the accused kick him two or three times, saying, "Get up; come home." Ramasamy was "convulsing" on the ground, and did not get up. The other deceased, Papu, was cutting cane, and the accused went up to his gang. Witness did not see the assault committed upon Papu, but he saw the Indian afterwards lying on the ground writhing . . . . About three weeks before the fatal day two other Indians were assaulted by the accused for being absent from duty, and one of them, a man about 40, died two days after the assault. He was ill when he was beaten.

Moonsamy, another indentured Indian, "deposed that he was working in the same gang as the two deceased, and saw the accused beat them"; "the accused was in the habit of beating the indentured Indians." Arrumugam, a third indentured Indian on the Estate, said:—

I saw Ramasamy and Papu beaten by the prisoner with a bundle of sugar canes . . . . Accused struck me also with the bundle of canes. He hit me on the head. I did not fall down, but I got down, and got out of accused's reach. When the prisoner was striking Papu I got frightened and ran away. The prisoner was mad with temper.

Narain, a fourth indentured Indian, also saw the assault on both the deceased. "The prisoner," he said, "is a terror to all the Indians on the estate. He has also assaulted me. I do not know where to go and complain." And Palaniandi, a fifth indentured Indian, corroborated the other four. The acting district surgeon found slight external bruises, and all the internal organs healthy; he concluded that the men died of "cold and exposure." Sergeant Blake (of the police) found many more marks than the surgeon, but thought they were two days old. The manager of the estate said "the shipment of men which included the two men deceased was about the worst the Estate had had for the last six years, the men being weak and ill"; the day of the two men's death "was the coldest day ever experienced"; and the place where they worked "was on the top of the hill and most exposed." Another white overseer said he had been with the accused's gang all day and "did not see any assault by the accused

on any of the Indians." He admitted that "it is unusual for two European overseers to work in the same field," but said "this was a large field of about 200 acres." The Indian witnesses denied that he was on the field at all. The accused admitted that he had pushed the two deceased away from the trucks, and claimed that, though strict, he was just. Anyhow, he was admittedly most unpopular on the Estate. The jury, after a few minutes' absence, returned with a verdict of not guilty on both counts. The *Natal Advertiser* says (October 10):—

The case bristled with contradictions, but whether the two deceased died from neglect, or, as the doctor phrased it, "from cold and exposure," influenced or uninfluenced by an assault, it must be remembered that no evidence was submitted by the defence as to when or how or why the men fell on the ground, and an extraordinary callousness was shown on the part of the responsible officials in not seeing that these men went home along with the rest. The witnesses for the prosecution referred to the accused as a cruel and an unpopular master, but apparently it is not he alone who deserves this character. It is important that the reputation of the Colony for the humane treatment of natives should not be impugned, and the acquittal of Schiffer does not affect the question of ill-treatment. The acquittal on the culpable homicide charge was a foregone conclusion, but the evidence, nevertheless, does not tend to reassure one as to the treatment of Indians on the Estate. No doubt the prosecution, however, will have a good effect. That the labouring classes of Indians in this colony are ignorant and possess many faults few will deny, but they must be treated justly and humanely, and it must not be allowed to go forth to India and to the world that the indentured Indians, brought here for our own benefit, subjects of the same mighty Empire to which we ourselves belong, are treated by white people in Natal with cruelty and injustice.

This comment does credit to our contemporary, but we cannot help suspecting that a very adverse opinion of the justice and humanity of Natal employers will "go forth to India and the world" unless the character of the evidence be materially altered.

For a long time past the question of the education of the children of British Indians in Natal has been urgently discussed, and we have had occasion to express strong opinions on the subject. In the meantime, we simply refer to the recent views of the principal Durban journals, which speak out in clear terms. With reference to recent correspondence in its columns, the *Natal Mercury* says (September 5):—

The grants made to the aided schools are clearly quite inadequate to keep the schools going and provide the teachers with the means of living decently, as a school teacher is expected to live, whether he is white or black. The principle of educating Indian children is not only admitted, but is part of an agreement with the Indian Government, and this being the case, it is only just that the Indians who are entrusted with the education of their young kinsfolk should be placed in a much better financial position than a waiter in a hotel or a washerwoman. Another point that has been raised is the inefficiency of some of the teachers, but efficient men cannot be had where the salary is inadequate, as capable Indians can always command a better wage in almost any other occupation than what many of them receive as school teachers. The amount expended last year by Government on Indian education averaged 12s. 8d. for each child, while on European education the expenditure for each child was £3 19s. 5d., so that it is impossible to say the cost of Indian education is excessive. The matter is one that merits attention, as it is neither just nor right that Indian school teachers should be paid at a rate below that on which it is possible for them to maintain themselves respectably. "Sweating" never pays in education, no matter what the kind of education may be, and it seems to us that the whole system of Indian education in the Colony needs investigation, with a view to putting it on a somewhat different and better footing. For this purpose a Government enquiry on a small scale would probably be the most suitable plan.

In like sense, the *Natal Advertiser* and the *Natal Witness* deal with the question. We cite their opinions on another page. And when Natal parades its "Imperialism" and loyalty, it will be well not to forget this matter of British Indian education.

Further modes of repression of British Indians are illustrated in a letter which we reprint from the *Natal Advertiser* in another column. It may be added here that the Cape Legislature has recently indicated a very decided opinion that "the country shall not be overrun by Asiatics." The Cape loyalists think the Natal restrictions "do not go far enough"; and Sir Gordon Sprigg said "they did not want the class of persons spoken about here at all, whether British subjects or not." He was going to take the matter up practically, he said, and he had "a strong hope that the other parties [that is, "Natal and the governments of the countries recently acquired"] would take this matter up also, and that next session he would be able to introduce a measure which would meet with the Imperial assent." For our part, we hope that "the Imperial assent" will be peremptorily withheld from any such un-Imperial proposal. As the *Times of India* pointedly said (April 15, 1899; INDIA, vol. xi, p. 218), "the injustice suffered by Indian traders in Africa will never be removed until the Home Government decides to accord to them the protection they have a right to expect."

OUR LONDON LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

PARLIAMENT is again in Session, and like the Government, it is simply the old vintage with a new flavouring. Of its aspirations as a legislative body it is still too early to speak. For the present it seems to have no aspirations. A creature of the war, its thoughts are fixed on warlike things, and its sole business is to keep the fighting machine in motion. Parliament we may be sure would not have been called together so near to the season of peace and goodwill if Ministers had only had ameliorative measures to propose. It is summoned now, as the Queen's Speech confesses, because the war chest is running dry and because further supplies are required to carry the South African campaign to its long-deferred conclusion. How many more Sessions must we consecrate to Mars? This is the third within eighteen months. It will certainly not be the last.

On the first day of the Session the old faces were clearly in a majority. One had to search for the novices; nor was the search always successful. The absence of the Nationalist members made a marked difference on the appearance of the House. Their usual quarter below the Opposition gangway was occupied by Liberals, with whom were mingled a sprinkling of Unionists crowded out from their own benches. From a rough survey of the serried ranks one derived the impression that neither in the average age of its members nor in their social status was the new Parliament to be distinguished from its predecessor. Well-dresed, well-fed, almost aggressively prosperous, the constituent atoms of the assembly seemed to lose all individuality in an overwhelming sameness of character and unity of general aspect—the unity of the commonplace. Events may tend to modify this melancholy impression. It is said that the Irish members comprise one or two meteors. But much of the old lump remains; the new leaven, indeed, is so slight as to be almost imperceptible. After all, nearly five hundred members succeeded in obtaining re-election.

A new Parliament usually begins its labours in a spirit of hilarity. Rival leaders are applauded by their respective followers, in whose demonstrations it is generally possible to detect an echo of that past electoral strife from which some have emerged victorious and others as survivors of the vanquished party. Last Monday the gladiators were almost mute. Thrice only was a cheer raised in honour of a leader. The first to elicit a welcome was Mr. Balfour, but so tepid was the reception that the First Lord of the Treasury, looking strangely grey and worn, wisely refrained from offering it the least acknowledgment. Mr. Chamberlain had evidently expected an ovation. He came in with downcast eyes, a deprecatory smile on his lips, his whole demeanour bespeaking an appeal for moderation even in love. On the whole, his friends were fairly successful in dissembling their admiration. They paid the Colonial Secretary the tribute of a cheer, but there was no ring of sincerity or enthusiasm in their applause. Sir William Harcourt had a heartier reception than was given to either Mr. Balfour or Mr. Chamberlain.

Perhaps the one figure that appeared to advantage in the ceremonial associated with the election of the Speaker was Mr. Gully himself. None of the speeches—not even his—contained any gem of thought, rhetoric, or sentiment. But Mr. Gully is admirable, alike in the ornamental and the practical duties of his great position. Only a very dignified man could walk through the archaic ceremonies and manipulate the sartorial modifications which mark each stage in the nomination, the election, and the confirmation of a Speaker of the House of Commons, without provoking the irreverent to smile. Mr. Gully played his part in the grand style, reciting the ancient formulas and observing the quaint old customs with a grave dignity that served to remind his auditors of the profound historical significance of every sentence and every little feature of the ritual.

An incident of the oath-taking which deserves to be noted was the appearance at the Table in one group of Mr. Balfour, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Mr.

Chamberlain, and Sir William Harcourt. Those gentlemen were the first, after the Speaker, to sign the roll, and their signatures were appended in the order in which they have just been named. Singularly enough, in these days of public antagonisms and private friendships they made no profession at the moment of being on exceptionally good terms with one another. The leader of the Opposition, at least, maintained a grim countenance as he stood side by side with Mr. Balfour, nor did the latter seem to expect anything else. With Sir William Harcourt, on the other hand, he exchanged a cordial greeting, while on his part the member for West Monmouth went out of his way to offer his congratulations to Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the new Financial Secretary. Among the members who made affirmation instead of taking the oath the first was Mr. John Morley.

Little light is thrown on the situation, either in South Africa or anywhere else, by the Queen's Speech. According to this extremely colourless document Parliament has been summoned at an unseasonable period of the year to vote further supplies of money both for the war in Africa and for the prosecution of our operations in China. There is, of course, no suggestion of a legislative programme. The time for that will be when Parliament reassembles in February. Meanwhile the interesting point as to whether the present Session is to end with an adjournment or with a prorogation is left in studied obscurity.

At the time of writing the plans of the Opposition are only partially developed. An amendment dealing with the conduct of the war is spoken of, but the Liberal leaders intend to hear what Mr. Balfour has to say to-night before deciding on their final course of action. A hope, almost amounting to an expectation, is entertained that the Government may announce some modification of their policy in South Africa which may obviate the necessity for a directly hostile attack. But even if the official leaders of the Opposition decide to forego their half-formed intention of moving an amendment it is extremely probable that action will be taken by some independent member. Both Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Keir Hardie, for instance, are credited with a determination to raise the issue by hook or by crook. The question of Mr. Chamberlain's financial interest in certain public companies that have done business with the Government will also be brought forward, and is expected to lead to an interesting, not to say a stormy, debate.

Much sympathy is felt with Mr. Chaplin in his dismissal from office under circumstances of which the ex-President of the Local Government Board gives so interesting an account in his published correspondence. Mr. Chaplin was certainly far from being an ideal Minister, but, after all, he was not less capable than Mr. Walter Long, his successor, or than Mr. Gerald Balfour, who has been rewarded for failure as Irish Chief Secretary by promotion to the Board of Trade. The sidelight thrown by the offended statesman on Lord Salisbury's methods of dealing with submissive colleagues and of providing for his sons, his nephews, and his sons-in-law at the expense of the country, has tended to deepen Conservative discontent. Before many days are over Parliament may witness a Ministerial revolt.

NOTES FROM BOMBAY.

CRITICISM OF THE VICEROY'S DECLARATIONS.

THE GUJERAT ENQUIRY.

EFFECTS OF FAMINE: EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

[From an Indian Correspondent.]

Bombay, November 17.

The Viceroy is still on his tour, making rattling speeches at a rattling pace. He has been to Bijapur and Goa, where he has rambled among architectural remains and ruins of bygone centuries, which evidently have an intense fascination for him. It is another evidence of his broad culture and many-sidedness. Meanwhile criticism, mostly of a favourable character, is being expressed in the public organs of opinion, Indian and Anglo-Indian, on his late Bombay Manifesto. It shows how much the official hierarchy stands in need of correction and of the art of receiving outward light when even such an out-and-out defender of the powers that be as the *Englishman* has nothing but approval for the utterances of the Viceroy on this tender subject. At the same time it will be noticed that the *Bengalee*, which may now be safely considered as the leading organ of advanced Liberal Indians in the metropolis of the British Indian Empire, is not all in love with the Viceroy's Bombay speech. While giving credit to Lord Curzon for his sympathetic and outspoken expressions, the *Bengalee* points out, with the fearless independence which is its chief characteristic (like the *Indian Mirror*, another veteran and advanced Liberal paper of wide fame), that it is one thing to speak and another thing to act. It asks how the Viceroy can reconcile his principle to respect Native opinion with his action in the matter of that retrograde Calcutta Municipal Bill, which was passed into law in face of the counter opinion, not of Calcutta alone, but of all India? Again, what about the recent Punjab Land Alienation Act, which was hurriedly passed (despite the two months' time given for objections) in face of the opposition of Sir Harnam Singh and the warning of the Lieutenant-Governor? It should be remembered, as I once before remarked, that it was asked that the Bill should be passed at Calcutta during this cold weather. There was no urgency for it. But the Government had determined to pass it at Simla, where no other non-official Indian representative was summoned to discuss this special Bill! It was a clever move of the Legislative department to avoid the storm of opposition which would have overtaken that hasty and ill-digested piece of legislation in Calcutta. Thus lofty declarations of statesmanship *by speech* or *on paper* vastly differ from actual practice. Is it surprising if these paper principles inspire no confidence in the sincerity of the Government? Are not our charters and proclamations still to a very large extent unredeemed pledges? It is to be sincerely hoped that before laying down his office Lord Curzon may be fortunate enough to *prove* to the world of India and civilisation at large that he at least means what he says and says what he means. That would contribute immensely to the restoration of confidence in the earnestness of State declarations.

The third act in the drama of Bombay revenue collections was opened yesterday by Mr. Maconochie at Anklesar, in the Broach district. The place where the enquiry was held is reported to be small. There was no public audience. Of course, none is expected in a small town in the Mofussil. Public interest might have been keenly excited had the *locale* of this judicial revenue court been in the Town Hall of the Presidency capital. Of course it would have involved some expense to bring down witnesses; but that would have been nothing compared with the immense advantage of holding the enquiry in the very centre of enlightenment and criticism, with no chimæras of policemen, magistrates, *et hoc genus omne* to frighten the wits of the poor peasant wights of Gujerat. Be this as it may. We are now told that an enquiry is also to be held as to the agricultural situation of Anklesar, and specially as to the deterioration of lands which have been relinquished for cultivation. Mr. Jiranji, an independent, but much harassed, landholder, has given exhaustive evidence regarding his own broad acres, and the many serious wranglings he has had with the revenue authorities. Mr. Gokuldas was there determined to watch how the proceedings went. All honour to this steadfast champion of the poor peasants! Whatever the result of the enquiry and the report, he has already deserved well of the country. The report will be the fourth act of the drama, and the final resolution of the Government thereon, perhaps six months hence, the fifth and last act. But for the last two we must possess our souls in patience.

Though the spectre of famine is receding from the horizon, it is feared that distress will continue to prevail owing to scarcity in certain parts of the Presidency. Grain, instead of being cheaper, is dearer; and sickness at present is greatly prevalent. It is evident that the baneful effects of the famine will not disappear from the land for several years yet to come, though meanwhile roseate official reports will no doubt be the order of the day.

The half-yearly return, meanwhile, of the foreign trade of India tells most eloquently the woeful tale of the effects of famine. There has been a net shrinkage of imports and exports combined of 8 96 crores during the six months! Of these, 2 56 crores are contributed by imports and 6·40 crores by exports. The imports of merchandise reached only 33·72 crores against 34 35 for the corresponding six months of 1899-1900, while the imports of silver and gold were 6·80 against 8·83. The exports this half-year are 43·51 crores

against 53 04. The principal shrinkage in imports is observable in cotton piece-goods, which were less by 2 09 crores compared with the six months of last half-year. Railway plant also diminished by 1 13 crores. But there is one remarkable fact to be noted in connexion with the imports. The value of sugar recorded for the first half-year is 1·18 crores in excess of the same period last year. Against 1 22 crores we have 2·40 crores. Where may be the increase? Since so much was speciously made of the effect of the countervailing duty on bounty-fed sugar by the late Finance Minister, it may be observed that both Austrian and German imports of sugar were as follows:—

	1899. Cwts.	1899. In lakhs.	1900. Cwts.	1900. In lakhs.
Austrian ..	265 554	29 70	448,979	54·10
Germany ..	18 893	1 97	260 434	30 27
Total ..	284 447	31·67	709 413	84 37

The combined imports were 150 per cent. more in quantity and 170 per cent. more in value. Contrast this with the imports of Mauritius:—

	1899. Cwts.	1899. In lakhs.	1900. Cwts.	1900. In lakhs.
Mauritius ..	455,224	48 90	774 971	89 54

The percentage of increase in quantity is only 70, and in value 83. Practically, then, the bounty-fed sugar, in spite of the countervailing duty, has beat its rival. Mauritius is left far behind, though its average price is about two rupees per cwt. cheaper. It is clear that the beet-root sugar is largely coming into consumption and is exceedingly popular. How will Mauritius or the indigenous article stint it is an open question. Meanwhile, as you know, the Brussels Conference is likely to do away with bounties. In that case, where will Mauritius be? If, in spite of the duty, the German and Austrian sugars can surpass Mauritius, what may they do when they become free of all bounty? Let us watch and wait.

Turning to exports, it may be pointed out that the commodity which shows the largest shrinkage in value is wheat. The diminution compared with last year is 3 89 crores. The fact is that practically India has not exported during the six months any wheat to speak of. Again, owing to our cotton famine the exports of that raw staple diminished by 2.34 crores. Lastly, both the cotton famine and the Chinese war have diminished the exports of Indian yarn by 2 63 crores. How far the exports of the current half-year will go to neutralise the heavy shrinkage of nearly 9 crores in both imports and exports remains to be seen. It may be mentioned that meanwhile the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has again drawn the attention of the Government to the dangerously low condition of the cash balances and the impending scarcity of money. We have of late added 8 crores of new rupees to the circulation, but, as I have often observed, the Indian Government will be bound to coin at least 5 to 6 crores of rupees annually to meet the natural demand. The Government of India should learn its lesson from the recent operations of the German treasury in the matter of thalers, which for nearly 27 years were a limping currency, as our rupees have been, thanks to the several currency doctrinnaires at both the termini of Government.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

340,000 ON RELIEF.

The Secretary of State for India has received (December 4) the following telegram from the Viceroy on the subject of the famine:—

"Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 239,000; Central Provinces, 50,000; Berar, 12.000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, 2,000; Bombay Native States, 12,000; Baroda, 14,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, relief discontinued; Haidarabad, 6,000.—Total, 340,000."

THE MANSION HOUSE FUND.

The Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers from the Indian Famine amounts to £387,700.

THE "INVESTORS' REVIEW" FUND.

We take the following from the current issue (December 1) of the *Investors' Review*:—

Rain, the Viceroy states, is still wanted in Bombay. Karnatik, Deccan, and Gujarat, otherwise "prospects are satisfactory." So far good, but there are still 257,000 persons in receipt of famine relief in Bombay alone and the total for the week ended November 24 is 420 000, a considerable decrease on the previous week's figures; but it is not in these numbers, as we must continually insist, that we find the true index of India's condition. Starvation and semi starvation prevail among a population of at least 50 000,000 allowing for the millions who have died, and the absence of rain in certain districts points to a revival of famine urgency in the coming year, the more so as throughout the stricken territories the harvest must be deficient. Therefore the necessity continues great, so great that nothing rejoices us more than the little helps dropping in upon us, so kindly and thoughtfully given.

Subscriptions to our little fund, from which not a penny is deducted for advertisements in newspapers or any other kind of charges, may be sent to A. J. Wilson, at this office; cheques to be crossed "Union Bank of London, Indian Famine Fund."

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Amount acknowledged last week	£897	2	5
Ernest Brennus, Esq., Sydenham	20	0	0
Miss Grove, per INDIA	0	5	0
Total to date	£917	7	5

Remittances should be made to Mr. A. J. Wilson, *Investors' Review* office, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

COMMEMORATION OF MAX MÜLLER.

The following appeal has been issued by Oxford colleagues of the late Professor Max Müller:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES."

Sir,—By the recent death of Professor Max Müller we have lost one of the most distinguished scholars of the nineteenth century, and we believe we express the feeling of his many friends and admirers in asking that his services to learning and letters should be commemorated in some suitable manner.

For the last fifty years he has exercised a far-reaching influence on Oriental study. He was one of the foremost pioneers in the study of the *Vedas*, the oldest literary monuments of the Aryan race; his *edito princeps* of the *Rig-Veda*, the earliest and most important of the ancient Indian scriptures, together with his *History of Ancient Sanscrit Literature*, has formed a foundation for the researches of other scholars. The real purport of their earliest literature has been revealed to the Natives of modern India largely, if not exclusively, by his writings. The science of Comparative Mythology, connected as it is with the study of the *Vedas*, owes much of its progress in recent times to his stimulating influence. The translations which he furnished, by leading authorities, of the Sacred Books of the East, became the means of placing the comparative study of religions on a sound basis. He first introduced into England that Science of Language which owes its existence to the study of Sanscrit, and he obtained for Comparative Philology the position which it now occupies in this country. By lecturing, by informal teaching, and by correspondence he ceaselessly and to the very end of his life promoted the cause of research.

Since Max Müller spent half a century in the service of the University of Oxford, and since he devoted the chief efforts of his life to the advancement of our knowledge of ancient India, it seems right that he should be commemorated in Oxford, and, if possible, in such a way as to promote the studies in which he was so greatly interested.

Some form of personal memorial is desirable—a bust or portrait —to be placed in the Bodleian Library. But beyond this, it is hoped that a fund may be collected, the employment of which should permanently connect his memory with Oriental study. The objects of such a fund need hardly be specified, but we might suggest the publication of books dealing with ancient India, the assistance of scholars in special works of research, the provision of occasional lectures by persons of learning and authority.

The object, then, of our appeal is two-fold: to perpetuate the memory of a great scholar, and to advance the studies to which his life was devoted. We trust that our appeal may not be in vain.

Communications on the subject of this letter may be addressed to A. A. Macdonell, 107, Banbury Road, Oxford.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS FOWLER, Vice-Chancellor of the University.
WILLIAM R. ANSON, Warden of All Souls.
GEORGE C. BRODRICK, Warden of Merton.
INGRAM BYWATER, Regius Professor of Greek.
SAMUEL R. DRIVER, Regius Professor of Hebrew.
ROBINSON ELLIS, Corpus Professor of Latin.
ARTHUR A. MACDONELL, Boden Professor of Sanscrit.
DAVID S. MARGOLIOUTH, Laudian Professor of Arabic.
WILLIAM MARKBY, Fellow of Balliol.
DAVID B. MONRO, Provost of Oriel.
SIDNEY J. OWEN, Reader in Indian History.
W. OXON.
FRANCIS PAGET, Dean of Christ Church.
HENRY F. PELHAM, President of Trinity.

Oxford, November 28, 1900.

THE PREVENTION OF FAMINE.

LECTURE AT GLOUCESTER.

[From the "Gloucester Journal" (Dec. 1).]

On Thursday evening (Nov. 29) Sir William Wedderburn, Bart., presided at a lecture given at the Co-operative Lecture Hall, under the auspices of the Educational Committee of the Gloucester Co-operative Society, by Mr. Frederick Sessions on "Our Hindu fellow-subjects, and the Causes and Prevention of Famines in India." There was a good attendance.

The Chairman said it gave him great pleasure to preside on account of the topic, which was of the gravest importance to India and to us; on account of the Society under whose auspices they were met, because it was encouraging to find a Society representing a large body of skilled working men turning their attention to this vital question; and on account of the lecturer. With regard to India, they heard a great deal about Imperialism, about the greatness and profit and advantage of our Empire, but they ought to consider a little more the responsibilities and duties of the Empire. The people of India had no voice in the management of their own affairs. They, the people of England, had the whole power in their own hands, and if anything went wrong the Indian people must look to them to put it right. Therefore it was a grievous thing if, not letting them manage their own affairs, they on their part did not give the requisite attention to rightly manage their affairs for them. The present Viceroy Lord Curzon, he believed to be both capable and sympathetic, and he honestly believed he would do his best under the circumstances in which he found himself. He had pointed out that "India was the pivot of our Empire, for if the Colonies were lost and India retained we should still remain a great Empire, but if India were lost the sun of our Empire would have set." Therefore, in turning attention to their duty to India, by doing all in their power to make her contented, happy, and prosperous, they were doing the best for themselves as for India. Then with regard to their Society they knew that the working men had now got by far the majority of votes in this country. They knew the difficulties and hardships of life, and therefore they looked to them for sympathy with the great industrial population in India, which was docile, frugal, and industrious. It was very distressing to see this people dying of hunger in what ought to be a land of plenty. He believed that under proper circumstances India might be a garden instead of (as it now was) a land of desolation. In introducing Mr. Sessions, Sir William said he was well known to them as a keen and close observer, and one filled with benevolence and kindness to his fellow creatures.

Mr. Sessions, who prefaced his lecture by remarking his intense sorrow that the Chairman was no longer "Member for India" in the British House of Commons, first of all described the races who peopled India, and in speaking of the country said there was no other in the world so capable of producing enormous wealth; yet the people were amongst the poorest on the face of the earth. Sketching the famine area, Mr. Sessions spoke of some districts that had never in the memory of man suffered so acute distress, and of others that had hitherto helped in such times but were now visited by famine. As showing the periodical recurrence of famine in India he mentioned that since the administration had been taken over from the East India Company some £40,000,000 had been spent in relief. Quoting from correspondents of his—Messrs. Alfred Taylor and George Swann, former residents of Gloucester—Mr. Sessions indicated the ravages of famine in the Central Provinces of India, and proceeding to the consideration of remedies asked what they were to do. Temporarily they had sent out relief by private subscription in England and America, but they had made no grant from the English Exchequer, as he thought they ought to have done. But their subscription lists had been infinitely small as compared with the response to other appeals related to the Imperialist sentiment of the day. But what further could be done? It was in a sense true that want of rain was the cause of these famines, and yet more rain fell in India in the course of a year than in England. It fell, however, only at certain seasons, and when it failed at these times there was famine. The obvious lesson was that they should store up the rainfall for use at times of failure. Then there was the want of good farming, owing to the lack of education, the want of rapid and cheap intercommunication, and finally there was the extreme poverty of the people which prevented them from laying out capital on their land, as, in many cases, they would gladly do if they had it. Mr. Sessions shortly explained the system of land tenure under the Government and the discouraging effect of increments in land taxes which were of the nature of rack-rents, the cultivators being taxed up to the hilt. The result was that in any temporary difficulty they were driven to the money-lenders, who lent at exorbitant rates of interest. The Chairman had greatly interested himself in the establishment of Governmental village banks, to enable the cultivators to borrow on reasonable terms, and thus to remedy this particular evil. They required a readjustment of the fiscal laws which bore so heavily on the agriculturists, who were 19-20ths of the whole population. The whole of the land tax was spent on militarism, whereas it ought to go back towards developing and fructifying the land. Only a paltry sum had as yet been spent on irrigation in India, but the results had fully justified it. In the Godavery district before the irrigation works were instituted the population was only 561,000. In 1891 it was over two millions, showing an increase of 300 per cent. The land revenue had gone up 250 per cent., and the combined imports and exports of the district had increased nearly 1,400 per cent. The Godavery irrigation works directly returned to the Government 8·7 per cent. on the outlay. In the Kistna district, where the natives said the water had been turned into gold, the money-lenders had almost entirely vanished. What they had thus done in a small way, why not do on an extended scale? It paid both directly and indirectly on the capital outlay, in the charges made for the supply of the water and in increased trade and revenue. There was nothing to be said against irrigation, and the Indian Government did not undertake the work they should do in this direction simply because they were not forced. One year's cost of the war in South Africa, by which they had lost from 10,000 to 15,000 of their men, would, if spent in irrigation works, save millions of lives of their fellow-subjects in India. In conclusion, Mr. Sessions referred to Sir William Wedderburn's association with the Indian Congress movement, giving his impression of the Congress under Sir William's presidency which he attended in 1889, and in regard to the intellectual attainments reached by young India through the Government and missionary schools and colleges, said it appeared to him that they were training up the Indian people in the way they should go, and then would not let them go in that way. He believed that step by step they should entrust the Indian people with the power to manage those matters of which he had been speaking.

At the termination of the lecture, which also comprised some description of the religious and social customs of India, and was illustrated by a number of costumes and curios, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, on the motion of Mr H. W. Williams, seconded by Mr. W. Mallard: "That looking to the grievous sufferings of the Indian people this meeting is of opinion that a searching enquiry should be made into the economic condition of the Indian cultivators, in order to suggest measures of famine prevention."

On the motion of Mr. A. Wright, seconded by Mr. G. Mundy, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Sessions, and a similar compliment was paid to the Chairman on the proposition of the lecturer, seconded by Mr. R. R. Chappell. Sir William, in acknowledgment, paid a tribute to the clear and correct view of the Indian question presented by Mr. Sessions, and referring to the latter's apology as a "globe-trotter," said the Indian people welcomed "globe-trotters" when they were men of sympathy, intelligence, and independence.

NORTH LONDON RADICALISM AND INDIA.

MR. NAOROJI AT THE MILDMAY RADICAL CLUB.

[From our own Reporter.]

On Wednesday evening at the Mildmay Radical Club at Stoke Newington, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji delivered a lecture on Indian subjects, after a very pleasing exhibition of vocal music by a number of young ladies, members of the Mildmay Singing Class. Mr. J. Argyle presided, and there was a large attendance.

Mr. Naoroji, who was received with loud cheers, commenced by expressing gratitude at having the opportunity of addressing them on that occasion. The people of this country, he said, ought to know what the real condition of India was, for on that point they were deplorably ignorant, as had been admitted by both the Secretary of State for India and the Indian Viceroy (Lord Curzon), the latter of whom had declared also that the loss of the Indian Empire meant the "setting of the sun of the British Empire." Two great influences had operated upon the connexion between India and Great Britain. One was the character of the British people, which had always had a tendency for good—(cheers)—with the result that bad Indian customs had been put an end to, and that the Indian people had the advantage of Western education with its concomitant advantages of freedom of the Press and of speech. (Cheers.) Thus the British influence had brought great good to India—and to Great Britain, inasmuch as India was a source of strength to the British Empire. (Cheers.) So far they had every reason to be proud of the connexion. But there was another side of the case. British adventurers naturally went to India in the first place to make money, and that had produced disastrous effects. As long as they were mere traders it mattered not, but when they secured territorial power the greed for money had disastrous consequences. The trouble began with the territorial possession of Bengal and Behar, and the oppression and rapacity of Englishmen there developed until the country was brought to the verge of destitution. At last the authorities in England were forced to investigate the condition of India. In 1787 a Governor-General of India pointed out that the people could not under such circumstances be benefited by foreign domination. Things went from bad to worse until a turn came, and during the '30's and '40's great legislative emancipations were enacted for Englishmen, by one of which India benefited, for in 1833 the question of the relations between England and India was thoroughly threshed out and a clause was passed declaring that Indian subjects should be treated exactly as British subjects in the service of the Crown. (Cheers.) The British Parliament thus clearly declared an equality between Indians and Britons. But the influence of greed had utterly neutralised the great charter. (Shame.) No notice whatsoever was taken of the clause. Twenty years passed and there was a renewal of the charter amid complaints that the first had proved practically a dead letter. In 1853 another charter was passed and examinations for the Civil Service were thrown open to Indians. But although Lord Stanley had urged that there should be simultaneous examinations in England and India instead of putting Indians to the expense of coming to

England, nothing was done. Then came the Mutiny, and, the people being on Britain's side, Britain came through it. On that, after full consideration, came the Queen's Proclamation, which again promised equality of treatment for all Indian subjects and their admission to public office. This great charter was given by Great Britain of her own accord. Had it been fulfilled? No doubt the British people thought it had been. But it had not. In 1877 the promise was renewed by Lord Lytton, and in 1887—the Jubilee year —the proclamation was repeated. So far so good; but, unfortunately, proclamations and charters had been either dead letters or they had been violated. In view of that, was it possible that the Indians' loyalty and strength could continue if Great Britain continued to act in so dishonourable a way? What had been the consequences of the violation of these pledges? One had been the great famine which had devastated India to an extent which was heartrending. Famines in India were not merely due to droughts. England could not live on her own food production. She depended on the whole world, and was able to buy of other countries. But while India produced more food than was necessary for the support of the people, her people could not withstand a time of drought. Why? The whole British Indian Empire had been built up entirely at the expense of India, which had had to bear the burden both of blood and money. What had been their reward? They had got pledges without performance! They were simply helots! They had been bled, but the bleeding had never been stopped. India had ever been remitting money to England with the result that the people had been impoverished, for the drain had increased from 3 to 30 millions a year. Could any country stand that? Was it a surprise that India could not stand it? How was it possible in a time of scarcity for Indians to buy food? At one time they were enabled to store grain in good years to meet the stress of bad years. But now they had to sell their crops in order to pay their taxes. They had no reserve. They were being bled to death in fact. India had been exhausted not merely by her efforts and sacrifices in building up the British Indian Empire but also by the demands upon her for the Civil Service. How long was this injustice to continue? The people were continuously but half fed. It was said that ten millions of money had been spent on saving the lives of the Indian people. But India would have to repay it. The people saved had weakened constitutions and must eventually succumb. Famines were occurring with greater rapidity in these times, yet all the time Indian wealth was being drained, and the Secretary of State refused to propose a grant from Imperial funds to help the sufferers. ("Shame!") In the last Parliament it was proposed that some such grant should be made, not in charity, but as a matter of justice; but the boon was denied. He hoped the British people even yet would rise to a sense of duty and compel Parliament to make such a grant. (Cheers.) Was the present condition of affairs to continue? Lord Salisbury had admitted that injustice would bring down the mighty to ruin. It was incumbent on Great Britain to consider as to the future. Was it to continue dark and calamitous? India's good was Great Britain's good, as John Bright well said. Let them look to the possibilities of trade with India. At present that trade was infinitesimal. It could be extended enormously if only the people were put in a position to pay. But India must not be treated any longer as merely an orange to be squeezed. (Cheers.) If present conditions continued, if they were to be treated simply as slaves, an explosion must come. Justice must prevail, or there would be a Nemesis which no one could conceive. To retain the loyalty of India the policy of 1858 must be honourably carried out, and in the interests of justice and humanity he appealed to the British people to be true to themselves. They owed a duty to India—to make a large grant from the British Exchequer, in order not to squeeze to death the starving people. A reversion to the original policy must be beneficial to the world at large. Let the Indian subjects be treated in the same way as British subjects: that was all he asked.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Naoroji.

SIR JOHN JARDINE, K.C.I.E., AND THE LIBERALS OF ROXBURGHSHIRE.

At the annual meeting of the Roxburghshire Liberal Association, held at St. Boswell's, on November 17, an Address was presented to Sir John Jardine, K.C.I.E., in commemoration of his splendid fight for the county seat at the general election. "The Address, which is in a handsome frame," says the *Jedburgh Post* (Nov. 23), "is on vellum and is illuminated by Mr. John Wallace, Edinburgh. The design consists of scroll work of Scottish views, embellished with sheaves of corn, sickles and scythes, emblematic of the agricultural industry. This surrounds the arms and motto of the county and the device of the county town, Jedburgh—a mounted moss trooper—as well as the Jardine arms. At the foot of the address in the left-hand corner there is a finely-executed vignette of Border life and scenery, this being a representation of a shepherd with his plaid and a collie dog at his feet looking out on a pastoral scene." The Address reads as follows:—

To Sir John Jardine, Knight Commander of the
Order of the Indian Empire.

We, the Roxburghshire Liberal Association, in annual meeting assembled, take this opportunity to convey to you our warmest thanks for the able manner in which you have championed our cause as Liberal candidate at the General Election of 1900. Although victory has not crowned our united efforts, the Liberalism of Roxburghshire has unmistakably asserted its vitality and power. The reduction of the Unionist majority by over 200 votes, with almost everything against us, encourages the hope of success in the future. We are with you heartily in your splendid and courageous attack on this single issue election—an issue taken for party purposes with unnecessary haste and at a time when the full and deliberate voice of the country could not possibly be obtained. We are with you in your manly and honest exposition of Liberalism, and your scathing impeachment of the class legislation of the past five years. We are with you in your call for peace, and in cordial sympathy with your statesmanlike suggestions—matured from wide experience and distinguished service in India—for a satisfactory and abiding peaceful settlement in South Africa after this unfortunate and calamitous war. We join in your cry for retrenchment, after years of prodigal expenditure, the sum of which is yet untold. We echo and re-echo your demand for reform when we see hundreds of thousands of electors defrauded of their just right to cast a vote in the government of their country. We hope again to enter the lists, imbued with your strength and courage, and the knowledge that we are fighting for justice, rectitude, and the glorious principles of the Liberal party. That we may have your help, and that the support we are proud to offer will lead to victory, is our earnest hope and desire.

Signed on behalf of the Association, November 17, 1900,

EDWARD WILSON, Chairman.
ADAM LAING, Secretary.

"In rising to accept the Address," says the *Jedburgh Post*, "Sir John Jardine was hailed with a loud and prolonged outburst of cheering. He said it was quite true that since he had come into the county he had made not only many acquaintances but had formed friendships which he hoped would last through life—(applause)—not based only on the kind hospitality he had received, but based on something more enduring—the common belief in great principles in a time of despondency, ending in what was called a defeat, but which, as the President had said, gave them great hopes of victory before long. They had been kind enough to allude to the strength of his Liberalism. He could only respond that what attracted him to this county was that he recognised here the Liberalism of the old stern and sterling type. Therefore, speaking as a political man, it had been a great pleasure to work among them, and it was a great pleasure to be back again. During the election and in the hour of defeat immediately was he strengthened by the enthusiasm of the people—(cheers)—and hardly had he left when he received a message from the Jed Forest Association, followed by one from the Executive, and were anything else wanted to add to that satisfaction it was the too honourable remarks that had been made to him that afternoon and the presentation of that very beautiful remembrance of a great fight. It seemed to him a good while since the election was fought. It was a stirring time. They worked under many disadvantages, while all the speaking they had—and it was powerful—was from men inside the county. They had very little assistance from statesmen outside. He was not aware that they lost much by that, for it seemed to him that the speakers at the meetings understood the questions and especially understood the pulses of the people. They had nearly come up to the figures of five years ago, and what would have been the case supposing the electors had been able to go on the new register?" Sir John went on to deliver a vigorous speech on the political situation, and in conclusion said "he would treat his Address as a remembrance of a well-fought campaign. He had seen how well his friends and colleagues had done in it. When he took it to his house in London his wife and children would be delighted to see it. It would be treated as an heirloom, and would always recall to his mind and theirs the remembrance of the days of fighting up to the 10th October." (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

BAILIE HILSON moved a vote of thanks to Sir John for his able, interesting, and exhaustive address. They would all agree with him that throughout his candidature Sir John upheld the Liberal standard in the way it commended itself to them most. He had condescended to nothing of a personal or petty nature. His address had deepened their respect and estimate of him and would strengthen the hope that in the future the Roxburghshire Liberals would rally round him if he came forward.

Mr. BALLINGALL, in seconding the motion, said that Sir John had endeared himself to all classes, and if he came back he would find that feeling deeper and deeper. The working classes had great regard for him. Wherever he heard them talking they declared he would walk the course.

Mr. A. L. BROWN, Galashiels, said that Sir John had proved himself a master of the whole question of the settlement. He could not help thinking what a tremendous pity it was that he was not a member of Parliament, because when Parliament met next month instead of having such an excellent gentleman as Lord Dalkeith, who could not open his mouth on the subject, they would have had quite as excellent a gentleman in Sir John who had spoken with a true politician's instinct. He had had a pretty good experience of candidates, and he did not think they could do better than secure the services of Sir John for their next one.

Mr. H. S MURRAY, Galashiels, said he believed the reason Sir John had reduced the majority was because of his sincerity which had appealed to all those whom he addressed. He characterised Mr. Chamberlain, who had once been a great Radical, as the arch-enemy of the people of this country, and for his conduct in regard to the Transvaal war deserved eternal punishment. This was, perhaps, not the thing for an election meeting, but he had no doubt that Mr. Chamberlain would get his reward in this world as well as in the next. (Laughter and applause.)

Provost TURNBULL, Melrose, thought they should add to the motion that they convey to Lady Jardine their warmest regards for having come down to the county during the contest and cheered them by her presence. In regard to the future he thought they could part with Sir John with

"Better lo'ed ye couldna be ;
Will ye no' come back again ?"

Mr. JOHN TELFER, Jedburgh, supported the foregoing.

Mr. ALEX. ANDERSON, Galashiels, held that Sir John was a man who had studied politics long before he came to Roxburghshire. He never thought he would win, because Lord Dalkeith and his party had such a hold of the county. When Lady Dalkeith clapped anyone on the shoulder they lost all power.

Sir JOHN JARDINE returned thanks, and moved a vote of thanks to the chair.

ANTI-INDIAN FEELING IN NATAL.

The opinion of the *Natal Mercury* (Sept. 5) on the Government treatment of British Indians in the matter of education we have cited in our second leading article to-day.

The *Natal Advertiser* writes in similar strain (Sept. 11) :—

This Colony cannot dispense with Indian labour, and so long as immigration is maintained, sufficient care for the education of Indian children must be shown by our Minister for Education. The appeal in behalf of the Indian teachers is being ventilated in the Press after two unanswered petitions have been sent to Maritzburg, the last, through the Inspector of Indian schools, so long ago as July last year. The petition was subscribed to by all the teachers under the English Church Mission, who, according to the last report of the Superintendent of Education, were receiving the miserable pittances of from £24 and £30 up to £80. It is true the head teacher of St. Aidan's Boys, the largest school in the Colony, receives £100, but there are some assistants to be remunerated there. The fees paid by coolies for their children in the standards are insignificant and difficult to collect, and at most do not add more than £1 or £2 per month to the income of the teachers. . . . The rate of grants to the Indian teachers is best understood when we state that each European child costs the Government £3 19s. 8d., and each native child 12s. 8d. ; but each Indian child costs 12s. 2d. Government should, it is obvious, either provide a system of education to justify the name, so as to enable the teachers to live and develop the intelligence of the children committed to their care, or wipe its hands of the business, which, however, in the face of its obligations, it would be very difficult to do.

The *Natal Witness* (October 16) writes:—The Indian teachers of the Colony have a grievance, or rather a long series of grievances, and it would appear as if they have reason to complain. It is held in the first place to be unjust that the salaries of all teachers are so small, and certainly £4 a month as a maximum is absurd to give anyone who has to keep up a respectable position and appearance, even taking into consideration the frugal habits of even the better class Indians. Again, it is stated that a system of examination is adopted by which the examiner puts questions in matters not scheduled to be taught, and the consequence is that but few passes are obtained, to the serious detriment and to the financial damage of the schools. Further, there is the very grave charge that petitions and memorials embodying complaints never get beyond the Inspector, and that therefore the Educational Department and the Ministry never hear of the dissatisfaction which is said to be universal. There are other matters complained of, but these are quite sufficient to direct attention to the matter, and the Indian teachers appear to have a good claim to have a rigorous and searching enquiry instituted into the Department and its management. Of course, we are aware that a section, and not an inconsiderable one, of the colonists is opposed to the education of Asiatics altogether. This, however, is a very narrow view, and on merely selfish grounds it is to the advantage of the European population that our Indians, who are so numerous, and without whom, it seems, whatever may be said to the contrary, we cannot get on, should be educated up to English ideas of progress and civilisation. Nothing could be imagined more dangerous than to have in our midst a large and constantly increasing community steeped in ignorance and impregnated with all the worst prejudices and passions of the Asiatic. It is clearly to our advantage to elevate in social life and ideas the Indian we have and will always have amongst us. Education is essential to this end, but certainly it is the business of those who have that matter confided to their care to see that such education is a reality and not a sham. It must be said that all that can be learned as to the existing system goes to prove the latter is the case.

In this connexion we now recall a letter signed "Abdool Rahman, a Transvaal Refugee," which appeared in the *Natal Advertiser* of July 25 last :—

Nothing is being attempted by the Natal Government to set things straight. It is evident that more drastic measures are in progress against the coloured men of Natal. . . . I may ask, what is the position of the Indian to-day in this Colony? Is he receiving better treatment here than he was receiving in the Transvaal? The answer can only be "No." In the Transvaal laws are made against them frankly ; here in Natal laws are made for Europeans only, from which coloured men are excluded.

Indians had no right to trade in the Transvaal ; the franchise was looked upon as a sacred right of the burgher. He was required to carry a pass. First and second class railway tickets and public vehicles were not made for him ; in fact he was classed and looked upon as a Kaffir. In Natal the trading licence is also the sole right of Europeans. A parliamentary vote is the heaven-given right of the white man. The Indian must be in possession of a free pass, and a nigger will arrest him if he dare put his feet where it is labelled for Europeans. The latest of all is the ricksha regulation, which is now marked "For Europeans Only." Your readers may wonder how this distinction should be allowed to be revived at present.

I will show in how many ways the Responsible Government is able to injure the man who has committed himself by getting born under the British Flag. Let me give an instance. On Saturday last, on my return from the racecourse, I asked a ricksha boy to take me to town. The boy said "No, I cannot carry your people. Look at the label. It is marked 'Europeans only.'"

After more enquiring, I find the same thing with them all ; so I had to walk to town disappointed. Suddenly a dirty, drunken man called a ricksha. The boy jumps up and off the man was carried. Why? Because the man's face was white. Even prostitute women are being carried on rickshas because it is undeniable that they are white, and because a man is coloured he dare not walk or sit where the white man does. This is the latest form of European civilisation.

Here, also, is how Kaffir policemen treat Indians in Natal. These bootless, uneducated policemen think that all Indians are as semi-savage as themselves. At the railway station on the arrival of the Boer prisoners from the North, many people had assembled on the platform. Amongst them was an Indian. I saw suddenly a Kaffir policeman appear and seize him by the collar and drag him away, although the Indian was saying : "Why do you arrest me? I am only looking as the other people. I did no wrong," etc. These remonstrances had no effect. I was told the policeman dragged this well-to-do Indian away because he had no right there ; but the question is why were the other people left standing there?

It is the Government of Natal who have passed these laws, and it is in the interests of certain people that such restrictions are made. It is a disgrace to the Government of Natal and to the Corporation of Durban, who have sanctioned these regulations, and who have put every obstacle in the way of Indians becoming desirable citizens of this Colony.

Can anything be more inconsistent than the excuse the Corporation offers in its endeavour to satisfy the selfish motives of a set of self-aggrandisers whose sole aim is to drive the Indian into an isolated corner? It is also said here that the Indian's propensity is to become the European's superior. This is wholly the conception of a prejudiced brain. My brethren may wonder at the lack of courtesy displayed in my letter, but everyone wishes and tries as I do to b[e] courteous in pointing out injustice inflicted upon his countrymen [Do] they not think it expedient that this vital question should be r[aised] to a higher place than where it is? This expression of my opinion may be regarded as "an Indian peculiarity," but I am able to justify my view. Our silent suffering is considered sufficient acquiescence, but our vital interests must be left to the decision of the Responsible Government. I really feel suspicious. My suspicions are that there is a secret understanding to leave the Indian question at present where it is, and after the termination of the war to legislate and place us under disabilities. In fact we are assailed on every side, and very few whites sympathise with us ; the Press are more or less against us. Look at the papers of this Colony ; everything which is said against us is given prominent place in their columns ; and the Responsible Government who place laws and innumerable other impediments in our way, are hampering our industrial progress.

These indications of anti-Indian feeling are suicidal. The Responsible Government of this Colony say that the Indians have many faults, but why not have them remedied? Give at least a chance to the better-class Indians. Show us that you are sincere in your mode of dealing. Do not put every obstacle in our way ; then you will find the Indian, as you have already seen him to be, a desirable citizen, and a true loyalist in time of need. I do not want to be an adviser to those who govern the Colony. I might be told that I am not furthering the interests of my countrymen ; but I do hope they will show some slight pity for the better-class Indian. Enough has been said of the Indian loyalty. Should they be rewarded it might take the form of a reality—that is to say, to raise them to the level of citizenship. I cannot conclude without thanking those English gentlemen who love justice above all things, and have in face of public prejudice had the courage to come forward and assist openly our cause.

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON INDIAN QUESTIONS.

THE WORK OF THE BRITISH COMMITTEE.

On November 2 Miss Alison Garland addressed a large meeting of the Literary Society in connexion with the Rev. Dr. Maclaren's Church, Manchester, on her visit to India. Mr. Fogg presided. The lecture was illustrated by beautiful lime-light views of important towns in India, temples, palaces, and Indian men and women in national costumes. A large number of pictures taken in the famine district last winter were also thrown on the screen, as well as views illustrating the growth, manufacture, etc., of opium. A hearty vote of thanks "for one of the most delightful lectures that had ever been given to that Society" was accorded to the lecturer.

On November 28 Miss Garland addressed a public meeting at Wallasey, Cheshire, on Indian questions. Mrs. Mahler, President of the Wallasey Women's Liberal Association, presided.

Open Letters to Lord Curzon ON FAMINES IN INDIA.

By ROMESH C. DUTT, C.I.E.

London: KEGAN PAUL & Co., price 7/6. Obtainable in India through any bookseller.

"Mr. R. C. Dutt's volume is extremely opportune at the present time, and his position, that an excessive land tax renders the agricultural population unable to face two or three successive years of drought, calls at least for careful examination. . . . . Mr. Dutt is on less debatable ground in pleading for a reduction of the annual drain to England and for the more extended employment of the Indians in civil employ."—*The Times.*

"Mr. Dutt succeeds in showing that, on the whole, areas of recurrent famine have been identical with those of excessive assessment."—*The Daily News*

"Nothing could be better than the book on Indian Famines which Mr. Dutt has just published in the form of some Open Letters to Lord Curzon. It is thoroughly informed, well-reasoned, and temperate; it tells the enquiring man exactly what he ought to know." —*The Daily Chronicle.*

"We would draw special attention to Mr. Dutt's own convincing and eloquent plea, hidden away in the final pages of the appendix, for the creation of such representative institutions as should enable the Government of India to utilise native services and keep abreast of native opinion."—*The Manchester Guardian.*

"His recommendations are that the land tax should be moderated, that irrigation works should be constructed, and that the public debt and the public expenditure of India should be reduced. These proposals he supports with a wealth of detail of all kinds, which proves his mastery of the subject and makes good his claim to the attention of the governing authorities." —*The World.*

"His view that it is inequitable to make India pay for the maintenance of a large army to be used for the general purposes of the Empire has the support of many high authorities who are by no means to be described as Little Englanders."—*Literature.*

THE GRANHAMS, SHELFORD, CAMBRIDGE.

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